

This bird is very common in the neighbourhood of Maldonado, where it frequents the open grassy plains. It sits on the top of a thistle, or on a twig, and catches the greater part of its food on the wing. It is generally quiet in its movements and silent. Mr. Gould remarks, that he finds "nearly all the species of this peculiar group to differ remarkably in the structure of their wings and tail, while in all other respects they closely resemble each other both in form and habit; I have, therefore, hesitated to separate them into so many genera. I have assigned the present species to Mr. Swainson's subgenus *Fluvicola*, considering that differences in the form of one organ alone would not be sufficient grounds for the institution of a new genus among such closely allied species; the present bird evidently leads off to *Tænioptera*, a genus proposed many years since, by the Prince of Musignano for the *Pepoazas* of Azara.

"This species is closely allied to, if not identical with the *Pepoaza Dominicana* of Azara, but as there is a degree of obscurity in his description, which causes some doubt on this point, I have considered it better to pay a just tribute of respect to that zealous labourer in the field of natural science, by assigning his name to this very elegant bird."

1. *XOLMIS CORONATA*. *G. R. Gray.*

*Tyrannus coronatus*, *Viell.* Ency. Meth. p. 885.

*Muscicapa vittiger*, *Licht.* Cat. p. 54.

My specimen was obtained on the wooded banks of the Parana, near Santa Fé, in Lat. 31° S.

Boie's name of *Xolmis* is adopted by Mr. G. R. Gray, as it was proposed some five years anteriorly to that of the Prince of Musignano's.

2. *XOLMIS NENGETA*. *G. R. Gray.*

*Lanius nengeta*, *Linné*, 1. p. 135. 7.

*Tyrannus nengeta*, *Swains.* Journ. Sci. xx. p. 279.

*Fluvicola nengeta*, *Swains.* Nat. Libr. Fly-catchers, p. 102. pl. 8.

*Tyrannus pepoaza*, *Viell.* Ency. Meth. p. 855.

*Muscicapa polyglotta*, *Licht. Spix.* II. pl. 24.

*Tyrannus polyglottus*, *Cuv.*

Le *Pepoaza* proprement dit, *Azara*, No. 201.

My specimen was procured at Maldonado, north bank of La Plata, where it is not common. Its habits in many respects are like those of the *Fluvicola Azaræ*; it appears to catch its prey on the wing. Iris bright red.

3. *XOLMIS VARIEGATA*. *G. R. Gray.*

PLATE XI.

*Pepoaza variegata*, *D'Orb. & Laftr.* Mag. de Zool. 1837. p. 63. Voy. dans l'Amér. Mèr. Orn. pl. 39. f. 2.

*Tænioptera variegata*. On plate.

This bird feeds in small flocks, often mingled with the icteri, plovers, and other birds on the ground. Its manner of flight and general appearance never failed to call to my recollection our common fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*, *Linn.*) and I may observe that its plumage (in accordance with these habits) is different from that of the rest of the genus. I opened the stomachs of some specimens killed at Maldonado, and found in them seeds and ants. At Bahia Blanca I saw these birds catching on the wing large stercorivorous Coleoptera; in this respect it follows the habits, although in most others it differs from those of the rest of its tribe. Iris rich brown.

4. *XOLMIS PYROPE*. *G. R. Gray.*

*Muscicapa pyrope*, *Küllitz.* Mem. l'Acad. Imp. des Sci. St. Peters. 1831. p. 191. pl. 10. Vögel von Chili, pl. 10. p. 19.

*Pepoaza pyrope*, *D'Orb. & Laftr.* Mag. de Zool. 1837. p. 63.

This bird is not uncommon near Port Famine in Tierra del Fuego, and along the whole western coast (at Chiloe specimens were obtained) even as far north as the desert valley of Copiapó. In the thickly wooded countries of Tierra del Fuego and Chiloe, where it is more common than further northward, it generally takes its station on the branch of a tree, on the outskirts of the forest. When thus perched, usually at some height above the ground, it sharply looks out for insects passing by, which it takes on the wing. Iris scarlet. It builds a coarse nest in bushes. Egg perfectly white, pointed oval; length one inch, breadth .76 of an inch.